

Concord Oct 16th 1855

Friend Ricketson,

I have got stuck
your letters at once. You must
not think Concord so barren a
place when Channing's away. There
are the river & fields left yet, and
I, though ordinarily a man of busi-
ness, should have some afternoons
& evenings to spend with you, I think
that is. If you could stand so
much of me. If you can
spend your time profitably here,
or without ennui, having an
occasional ramble or tit-a-tat
with one of the natives, it will
give me pleasure to have you
in the neighborhood. You see
I am preparing you for our
awful unsocial ways, — keeping
in our dens a good part of
the day, sucking our claws per-
haps. — But then we make
a religion of it, and that you
cannot but respect.

If you know the taste
of your own heart & when it
come to Concord, and I'll warrant
you enough here to season the dish
with, - me, even though C. & E.
& I were all away. We might pad-
dle gently up the river - then there
are one or two more ponds to
be seen, &c -

I should very much enjoy
further rambling with you in your
vicinity, but must not have it
for the present. To tell the
truth, I am planning to get
around to work after these long
months of inefficiency and idleness.

I do not know whether you
are haunted by any such demon
which puts you out the alert
& plucks the fruit of each day
as it passes, and stores it safely in
your bin. True, it is well to have
abandoned your time at times,

and to our working hours that
must be as the spile of the bung.
So for a long season I must
enjoy only a low slanting gleam
of my mind's eye from the Mid-
-Nebrrough Pond, far away.

We think I am getting a
little more strength into those
knees of mine; and for my part,
I believe that God does delight
in the strength of a man's legs.

Yours

Benny J. Thoreau